

## Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 STATE 005901  
ORIGIN SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 R

DRAFTED BY PM/DCA:HRPHELPS:KS  
APPROVED BY EUR:JEGOODBY  
ACDA:MR. NEIDLE  
EUR/RPM:LBRECKON  
S/S GOLDSMITH

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O R 100501Z JAN 78  
FM SECSTATE WASHDC  
TO USMISSION USNATO IMMEDIATE  
INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON  
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW  
USMISSION GENEVA

S E C R E T STATE 005901

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: PARM, US, UK, UR

SUBJECT: CTB NEGOTIATIONS, NAC BRIEFING

1. MISSION MAY DRAW ON FOLLOWING FOR BRIEFING NAC  
JANUARY 11.

2. FURTHER SESSIONS OF THE TRILATERAL COMPREHENSIVE  
TEST BAN TALKS WERE HELD IN GENEVA FROM DECEMBER 5 TO 20.  
THE US DELEGATION PRESENTED ITS VIEWS ON THE KEY SUB-  
STANTIVE ELEMENTS OF A MULTILATERAL TREATY BANNING NUCLEAR  
WEAPONS TESTS AND OF AN INTEGRALLY RELATED PROTOCOL  
DEALING WITH PEACEFUL NUCLEAR EXPLOSIONS (PNES).

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3. THE US DELEGATION CONCENTRATED HEAVILY ON THE DURATION  
ISSUE, STRESSING THE NEGATIVE CONSEQUENCES OF A TREATY,  
SUCH AS THAT PROPOSED BY THE SOVIETS ON NOVEMBER 2,  
WHICH WOULD AUTOMATICALLY TERMINATE IF ALL NUCLEAR  
POWERS HAD NOT ADHERED WITHIN THREE YEARS. IT PROPOSED  
INSTEAD A VERSION ALLOWING A PARTY TO WITHDRAW, ON ONE  
YEAR'S NOTICE, IF AFTER A CERTAIN PERIOD IT DECIDED THAT

CONTINUED TESTING BY A NON-PARTY AFFECTED ITS SECURITY. IN AN ATTEMPT TO MEET THE SOVIET POSITION, THE US DELEGATION INDICATED THAT THIS PERIOD COULD BE THREE YEARS

(I.E., A FOUR YEAR MINIMUM DURATION, WITH THE ONE YEAR NOTICE), INSTEAD OF FIVE AS WE HAD ORIGINALLY PROPOSED. THE SOVIETS OBJECTED THAT OUR PROPOSAL WOULD PLACE ALL THE BLAME FOR COLLAPSE OF THE TREATY ON THE PARTY THAT FELT COMPELLED TO WITHDRAW AND THEY ARGUED THAT THE THREE ORIGINAL NUCLEAR POWER PARTIES SHOULD BE RELIEVED OF THEIR OBLIGATIONS SIMULTANEOUSLY.

4. THE US DELEGATION STATED THAT IT COULD ACCEPT THE SOVIET CONCEPT OF A TREATY PROHIBITING WEAPONS TESTS AND A PROTOCOL DEALING WITH THE QUESTION OF PNES, PROVIDED THE PROTOCOL WAS AN INTEGRAL PART OF THE TREATY AND CO-TERMINUS WITH IT. THE US PROPOSED THAT THE PROTOCOL, WHILE BANNING PNES, SHOULD CONTAIN A COMMITMENT TO KEEP UNDER CONSIDERATION THE QUESTION OF WHETHER THEY SHOULD BE CARRIED OUT IN THE FUTURE. THE SOVIETS FOUND THIS AN INSUFFICIENT COMMITMENT TO WORK OUT ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE CONDUCT OF PNES AND REPEATED THEIR NOVEMBER 2 PROPOSAL FOR A THREE YEAR TIME LIMIT FOR REACHING AGREEMENT, FAILING WHICH THE MORATORIUM WOULD EXPIRE. WE EMPHASIZED THAT IT WOULD BE UNACCEPTABLE TO HAVE A WEAPONS TEST BAN CONTINUE WHILE PNES WERE  
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UNCONSTRAINED.

5. THE DETAILS OF VERIFICATION WERE NOT DISCUSSED AT ANY GREAT LENGTH INASMUCH AS THE US AND UK HAD NOT YET FULLY ELABORATED THEIR POSITIONS. THE SOVIETS CONTINUED TO EXPRESS A WILLINGNESS TO ACCEPT ON-SITE INSPECTION ON A "VOLUNTARY" BASIS AND INDICATED SOME FLEXIBILITY WITH REGARD TO PROCEDURES. THEY WERE PREPARED TO CONSIDER US SUGGESTIONS FOR METHODS TO ASSURE THE AUTHENTICITY OF DATA FROM SEISMIC STATIONS ON US AND SOVIET TERRITORY, AND THE US PUT FORWARD SOME PRELIMINARY TECHNICAL CONSIDERATIONS.

6. WE HAVE SUGGESTED JANUARY 23 FOR THE RESUMPTION OF THE TALKS AND IT IS AGREED THAT MUCH OF THE WORK WILL BE CONDUCTED IN THE POLITICAL-LEGAL AND TECHNICAL WORKING GROUPS WHICH WERE ESTABLISHED IN DECEMBER.

7. THESE TALKING POINTS HAVE BEEN PROVIDED TO UK EMBASSY WASHINGTON. IN VIEW OF BRITISH PARTICIPATION IN CTB TALKS, YOU SHOULD COORDINATE NAC PRESENTATION WITH UK REPRESENTATIVE.

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## Message Attributes

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**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
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**Decaption Date:** 20 Mar 2014  
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**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
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